

REMARKS

The title has been amended to more accurately reflect the elected invention.

Claims 18-31 have been canceled.

Claims 34-36 have been amended to remove non-elected species.

Claim 37 has been amended to be an independent claim and incorporate the subject matter of claim 32 from which it formerly depended.

New claims 38-40 have been submitted. These claims effectively track the subject matter of claims 34-36. Accordingly, Applicants submit that no new matter has been entered in to the Application.

I. Restriction/Election Requirement

The Examiner has restricted the claims of the instant claims into 3 groups relating to (i) a method of detecting early renal disease in a cat or dog, (ii) a method to identify a cat or dog at risk for developing late-stage renal disease, and (iii) an isolated antibody that selectively binds to albumin from a cat or dog. Applicants hereby elect Group III for further prosecution. Group III claims include claims 32-37 and newly submitted claims 38-40.

In addition, Applicants also elect monoclonal antibody H425 to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is found allowable. Claims 32-40 all read on this elected specie.

CONCLUSION

All of the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner has any questions regarding this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at (970) 493-7272 ext. 4174.

Respectfully submitted,

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